

rollcall vote on Tuesday at approximately 12 noon. That vote most likely will be in relation to an amendment to the energy bill.

I wish everyone a safe recess, and I look forward to working with everyone following this recess.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass? The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote "nay".

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	DeWine	McConnell
Allard	Dole	Miller
Allen	Domenici	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Nickles
Bond	Fitzgerald	Roberts
Breaux	Frist	Santorum
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burns	Gregg	Smith
Campbell	Hagel	Snowe
Chafee	Hatch	Specter
Chambliss	Hutchison	Stevens
Cochran	Inhofe	Sununu
Coleman	Jeffords	Talent
Collins	Kyl	Thomas
Cornyn	Lott	Voivovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	McCain	

NAYS—44

Akaka	Dorgan	Lieberman
Baucus	Durbin	Lincoln
Bayh	Ensign	Mikulski
Biden	Feingold	Murray
Bingaman	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Graham (FL)	Nelson (NE)
Byrd	Harkin	Pryor
Cantwell	Hollings	Reed (RI)
Carper	Inouye	Reid (NV)
Clinton	Johnson	Rockefeller
Conrad	Kohl	Sarbanes
Corzine	Landrieu	Schumer
Daschle	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Dayton	Leahy	Wyden
Dodd	Levin	

NOT VOTING—3

Edwards	Kennedy	Kerry
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The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 51) was passed.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider that vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent when the Senate receives from the House the companion to S. 1050, the Defense authorization bill, the Senate proceed to its consideration at a time

determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader; provided further that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1050 as passed be inserted in lieu thereof; and further, any other amendments in order be: Warner, two amendments regarding BRAC; Dorgan-Lott, BRAC amendment, 30 minutes equally divided, no second degrees; Kennedy-Cornyn-Brownback-McCain, immigration, 30 minutes, equally divided; Reid-Inhofe, concurrent receipts; that the amendments be subject to relevant second degrees under the same debate limitation except where noted.

I further ask consent that following the disposition of the above mentioned amendments, the bill be read the third time and the Senate then proceed to a vote on passage of the House measure, as amended; finally, I ask that the Senate then insist on its amendment, requesting a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I think the Senator from West Virginia requested 20 minutes and I ask the unanimous consent request be modified to accommodate Senator BYRD's request.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Hampshire have 5 minutes, followed by Senator BYRD for 20 minutes, followed by Senators BOND and TALENT for 10 minutes, and prior to the Senator from New Hampshire, 30 seconds to Senator SPECTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES FROM COLA CUTS

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent that the Daschle amendment numbered 834 be modified to be placed in the form of a Senate resolution; that the resolution, be adopted the preamble be adopted, with a motion to reconsider being laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this resolution provides that Social Security cost-of-living adjustments shall be maintained.

I thank the Chair. I thank my colleagues. I thank the Democratic leader.

The resolution (S. Res. 155) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 155

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that:

(1) Social Security provides a relatively modest insurance benefit for seniors—many of whom rely on Social Security for part or all of their monthly income. Without Social Security, forty-eight percent of beneficiaries would be in poverty today.

(2) In order to protect benefit levels against inflation, Social Security beneficiaries receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based on Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

(3) The January 2003 COLA provided only a 1.4 percent increase in Social Security benefits, increasing the average monthly benefit for all retired workers by only \$13 (from \$882 to \$895).

(4) Annual growth in Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket health care costs for retired individuals on fixed incomes far exceeded the small COLA increases provided to Social Security beneficiaries.

(5) Reducing COLAs will disproportionately harm low-income Social Security beneficiaries and push millions of seniors into poverty.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that Social Security cost-of-living adjustments should not be reduced.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

MEDICARE VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES ACT OF 2003

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Services Act of 2003. This is legislation I introduced in the Senate this past week to deal with vision impairment, one of the most common disabilities affecting seniors today.

Millions of Americans currently have impaired vision. The number of people in the United States with vision impairments continues to increase. The vision impairment is a loss of vision that is not correctable by standard glasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery. One of the leading causes of vision impairment and blindness in the United States is age-related disease and that is why it is important we begin to deal with this serious illness under our Medicare system.

Vision rehabilitation assists individuals with this serious vision loss so they can safely navigate in their own homes and within their local environments. Vision rehabilitation services help people avoid medication errors, help them cook and use kitchen utensils safely, and help avoid burns and falls; in short, help them to be more independent in their own community and enable them to enjoy a better quality of life.

Importantly, vision rehabilitation services promote safety and that all-important independence for our elderly. This legislation would ensure that Medicare coverage for vision rehab

services would be made available to all of our elderly citizens in the United States.

It would make the coverage available nationwide. It would establish strict qualifications in the Medicare Program for specially trained vision rehabilitation professionals who operate under physician supervision and allow them to provide the highest possible quality services in the home when deemed medically necessary.

One in five older Americans, over 7 million people, report some degree of serious vision impairment. More than 700,000 older Americans are legally blind. According to the CDC, falls among older people cost the Government more than \$20 billion a year, and vision problems were specifically cited as one of the leading causes of these falls. If only one in five of the hip fractures due to vision impairment were prevented, each year the annual cost savings would be hundreds of millions of dollars.

Nearly anyone suffering from vision loss can benefit from vision rehabilitation services that can help patients make the most of whatever vision they do have remaining.

Specifically, this bill takes a number of important actions. It establishes national coverage under Medicare for the provision of rehabilitation services. It defines rehabilitation services as services provided to a person with a vision impairment under a plan of care developed by a physician, allowing these services to be furnished both in-office and in a patient's home. It defines a vision rehabilitation professional as well as setting out the educational criteria these providers must have.

This legislation ensures payment under the existing physician fee schedule. That is important. There was an awful lot of work put into developing this legislation, so we did not have to create a new or separate physician fee schedule. The legislation also requires the patient care plan be developed by a physician in order to receive reimbursement under Medicare. That plan has to attest that vision rehabilitation services are medically necessary, and is a plan that periodically is reviewed by a physician.

It is a strong, focused program that provides coverage for these very important services under Medicare. In over a 5-year period, the independently estimated cost is less than \$10 million—less than \$10 million, to begin to address one of the leading causes of accidents that disable our elderly citizens in their homes. It is less than \$10 million over a 5-year period to increase independence, to increase quality of life, and to provide a better quality of care in a home setting.

I think this is an important piece of legislation that can make an enormous difference for millions of older Americans under Medicare.

I do thank the cosponsors who have already agreed to support this legislation—Senator STEVENS, Senator

MCCAIN, Senator COLLINS, Senator BUNNING, Senator SPECTER, Senator BURNS, Senator ALLEN, Senator KERRY, Senator LINCOLN, Senator MILLER, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator CANTWELL, Senator KENNEDY, and Senator LANDRIEU.

It is a strong, bipartisan coalition that will work throughout this year to see that this legislation is signed into law, making a difference by adding vision rehabilitation services to Medicare and making that difference in the lives of millions of elderly Americans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this coming Monday is the last Monday in May. Since the adoption of the National Holiday Act, Public Law 90-363, the last Monday in May has been celebrated as Memorial Day. The origins of Memorial Day extend far earlier than 1971, stretching back to the Civil War, when the practice of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers became widely practiced in the United States. And in the earlier years, the people, particularly the people of the southern states, celebrated this as Decoration Day.

Honoring the fallen in battle is an ancient custom, extending at least to the ancient Greeks. Thucydides provides us with one example. It was the custom in Athens to conduct an elaborate funeral for all those killed in battle. A sacrifice would be made, the fallen laid to rest with ceremony, and then a funeral oration would be given. After the first battles of the Peloponnesian War, the brilliant politician and general, Pericles, was the orator. He used his speech to honor the dead but also to pay homage to the state for which they had fought. His love and admiration for Athens reflects the feelings of patriotism, pride, and love for the United States that have swelled in our breasts since the terrible events of September 11, 2001, and since the brave performance put on by U.S. forces in Iraq this spring.

Pericles said, in part:

... fix your eyes upon the greatness of Athens, until you become filled with the love of her; and when you are impressed by the spectacle of her glory, reflect that this empire has been acquired by men who knew their duty and had the courage to do it, who in the hour of conflict had the fear of dishonor always present in them, and who, if ever they failed in an enterprise, would not allow their virtues to be lost to their country, but freely gave their lives as the fairest offering which they could present at her feast. The sacrifice which they collectively made was individually repaid to them; for they received again each one for himself praise which grows not old, and the noblest of all tombs, I speak not of that in which their remains are laid, but that in which their glory survives, and is proclaimed always and on every fitting occasion both in word and in deed. For the whole earth is the tomb of famous men; not only are they commemorated by columns and in-

scriptions in their own country, but in foreign lands there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stones but in the hearts of men.

So in the hearts of every family reunited, every child now free to attend school, everyone of every faith now allowed to worship freely, dwell the unwritten memorials to American fighting men and women. In France, in Flanders field, in Belgium, in Austria, Sweden, all across Europe, in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia, still beat hearts that remember the faces of American G.I.s who liberated them.

At home, as well, the fallen live on. In the hearts of their families, in the caring hands that place poppies on graves in military cemeteries, in the flags snapping proudly in the breeze at doorsteps around the Nation, the Nation's fallen heroes are remembered. Without them, our Nation and our history would be forever altered. Without the heroes of Bunker Hill and Lexington and Yorktown, we might still be a British colony. Without the heroes of Gettysburg and Appomattox, we might not be a United States but two separate nations. Without the heroes of the Ardennes and Ypres, of Normandy and Tarawa, the globe would be redrawn in very different shapes. Without the heroes at the Yalu River and at Da Nang, the Iron Curtain might have encircled the globe.

To each generation of heroes, we offer our silent thanks. And to the Creator, we must offer our prayers that the succeeding generations will be equally brave and equally patriotic, as ready to meet the rigors and challenges to come as are our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines today. We must hope that we bequeath to our future generations a nation worthy of such sacrifice, a nation, as Pericles proclaimed of Athens "... for whose sake these men nobly fought and died; they could not bear the thought that she might be taken from them; and every one of us who survive should gladly toil on her behalf."

The United States' guiding philosophy, our signal principles of freedom, liberty, opportunity, of government by the people—these are the enduring monuments of America's greatness. They are our greatest treasure, to be guarded most jealously and defended most zealously. For them have the fallen filled our military cemeteries. Even as we continue the so-called "war on terror," we must guard against undermining our principles for the sake of some gossamer illusion of security.

Our government must operate openly, before the view of the people. The people's branch—here it is. The people's branch, the Congress, must defend its prerogatives lest the Executive assume the powers of a tyrant. We must deal freely and fairly and honestly on the world stage, using our strength for the common good and maintaining the friendship built upon freely spilled blood and shared sacrifice. And we must treat our people as citizens, not